

California Department of Fair Employment & Housing

News Bulletin

Date: July 23, 2004

Attention: All Civil Rights Advocates

Subject: Innovation Award - Tribute to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)

The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing was honored recently by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for exemplary work in the area of housing discrimination.

DFEH received the prestigious Innovation Award on June 16, at the HUD 2004 National Fair Housing Training Conference and Housing Policy Summit held in Washington, DC. Accepting the award for the Department was Beth Rosen-Prinz, DFEH Housing Regional Administrator.

"DFEH is the nation's largest Fair Housing Assistance Program," stated interim Director Wanda Kirby. "The Department processes nearly 10% of the nation's fair housing caseload. This is the result of the commitment, diligence, and hard work of the managers of the Housing and Mediation Units and their staff," Director Kirby continued. "Without their dedication the Department would not have received this award."

HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Carolyn Peoples, who presented the award, commended DFEH for using HUD's Partnership Initiative funds to address the Department's aged case inventory which enabled the Department to comply with HUD's aged case goals. This was accomplished by creating a third Housing Office (Oakland II) and by creating a Housing Mediation Program. The combination of these two programs, in addition to the work of the two other Housing Offices, enabled the Department to reduce the aged case inventory to a much lower level. In presenting the award, Assistant Secretary Peoples noted that "DFEH has maintained its traditionally high standards of investigating excellence among its three housing units, as well as important affirmative relief to vindicate the public interest in all mediated cases."

The Department of Fair Employment and Housing is the largest state civil rights agency in the country. The Department's mission is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and from the perpetration of acts of hate violence. For more information about DFEH and its programs go to www.dfeh.ca.gov.

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**Housing discrimination complaints can be filed with DFEH by calling (800) 233-3212,
TTY (800) 700-2320, Oakland area & out-of-state (510) 622-2945.**